FOLEY & LARDNER LLP Steven H. Hilfinger Salvatore A. Barbatano One Detroit Center 500 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2700 Detroit, MI 48226-3489 Telephone: (313) 234-7100

Telephone: (313) 234-7100 Facsimile: (313) 234-2800

Attorneys for Peterson American Corporation

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

X	
:	Chapter 11
:	
:	Case No. 09-50026 (REG)
:	
:	Jointly Administered
:	•
X	
	: : : :

# OBJECTION OF PETERSON AMERICAN CORPORATION TO ASSUMPTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND CURE AMOUNTS RELATED THERETO

Peterson American Corporation ("Supplier"), by its attorneys Foley & Lardner LLP, hereby submits this objection (the "Objection") to the Debtors' assumption and assignment of certain executory contracts and the Debtor's proposed Cure Amounts related thereto. In support of its Objection, Supplier states as follows:

### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Supplier is in receipt of that certain Notice of (I) Debtors' Intent to Assume and Assign Certain Executory Contracts, Unexpired Leases of Real Property, and Unexpired Leases of Nonresidential Real Property and (II) Cure Amounts Related Thereto (the "Assumption and Assignment Notice"), dated June 5, 2009, in which the Debtors designate certain agreements (the

"<u>Assumable Executory Contracts</u>") between Supplier and the Debtors that may be assumed and assigned to Vehicle Acquisition Holdings LLC (the "<u>Purchaser</u>").

- 2. Supplier and the Debtors executed a "Trade Agreement" dated June 10, 2009. The Trade Agreement provides that notwithstanding the terms contained therein, the Trade Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of two specific claims of Supplier against the Debtors. These two items, which relate to a program cancellation claim and claim for unpaid tooling, account for \$344,981.00 of the shortfall identified below in the Debtors' asserted Cure Amount. The remaining shortfall of \$46,005.14 represents the non payment on pre May 1, 2009 invoices (including retro invoices). Pursuant to recent discussions with responsible parties within GM Purchasing, resolution and payment of these items are in process, and it is the Debtors' intent that discrepancies identified above will be paid. However, the Debtors advised Supplier to file this objection as a precautionary measure.
- 3. Supplier reserves its rights to object to any additional and/or amended notice of assumption and assignment received from the Debtors and/or the Purchaser and to any changes to the information contained on the secure website referenced in the Assumption and Assignment Notice.

#### **ARGUMENT**

## I. The Proposed Cure Amount Is Inadequate

4. In the exhibit to the Assignment Notice, the Debtors assert that the Cure Amount for the Assumable Executory Contracts is \$ 387,565.61. The Debtors claim that this amount is sufficient to cure all prepetition defaults under the Designated Agreements as of June 1, 2009 (the "Commencement Date").

- 5. The proposed Cure Amount does not accurately reflect all prepetition defaults and is therefore insufficient.
- 6. The proposed Cure Amount does not include any post-petition defaults and is therefore insufficient.
- 7. Section 365(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that the trustee may not assume an executory contract unless the trustee "cures, or provides adequate assurance that the trustee will promptly cure" any default under the contract. 11 U.S.C. § 365(b)(1)(A). Congress' intent in imposing cure and adequate assurance conditions on the ability of a debtor to assume an executory contract was to ensure that contracting parties receive the full benefit of their bargain if they are forced to continue performance. *See In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc.*, 85 F.3d 992, 999 (2d Cir. 1996). Resolution of claims of default arising under an assumed contract seeks to restore the debtor-creditor relationship to pre-default conditions, thereby bringing the contract back into compliance with its terms. *In re Wireless Data, Inc.*, 547 F.3d 484 (2d Cir. 2008).
- 8. Debtors must cure all defaults under the Assumable Executory Contracts, including pre-petition defaults and post-petition defaults.
- 9. The Debtors' proposed Cure Amount would deprive Supplier of the full benefit of its bargain and would fail to restore the parties to pre-default conditions.
- 10. The correct amount required to cure all prepetition and post-petition defaults is\$778,551.75. This amount may be subject to change.
- 11. "Cure Amounts" are defined in the Master Sale and Purchase Agreement as "all cure amounts payable in order to cure any monetary defaults required to be cured under Section 365(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code or otherwise to effectuate, pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, the assumption by the applicable Seller and assignment to Purchaser of the Purchased

Contracts." The proposed Cure Amount does not include defaults accruing during the period after June 1, 2009. Supplier reserves the right to submit such additional amounts to be added to the amount stated in the paragraph above.

- II. The Assumption and Assignment Notice Improperly Allows For the Assumable Executory Contracts to be Assumed Without Payment of the Cure Amount or Adequate Assurance of Prompt Cure
  - 12. Paragraph 8 of the Assumption and Assignment Notice provides in relevant part:

If a timely Contract Objection is filed solely as to the Cure Amount (a "Cure Objection"), then the Assumable Executory Contract shall nevertheless be assumed and assigned to the Purchaser on the Assumption Effective Date (as hereinafter defined), the Purchaser shall pay the undisputed portion of the Cure Amount on or as soon as reasonably practicable after the Assumption Effective Date, and the disputed portion of the Cure Amount shall be determined as follows and paid as soon as reasonably practicable following resolution of such disputed Cure Amount.

- Assignment Notice as the later of the date proposed by the debtors, which date may be the Closing or a later date, and "the date following expiration of the Objection Deadline if no Contract Objection, other than to the Cure Amount, has been timely filed, or, if a Contract Objection, other than to the Cure Amount, has been filed, the date of the Assumption Resolution Stipulation or the date of a Bankruptcy Court order authorizing the assumption and assignment to the Purchaser of the Assumable Executory Contract."
- 14. The Assumption and Assignment Notice thus allows for the possibility that that the Assumable Executory Contracts will be assumed and assigned before a dispute as to the proper Cure Amount is resolved.
- 15. As noted above, Section 365(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that the trustee may not assume an executory contract unless the trustee "cures, or provides adequate

assurance that the trustee will promptly cure" any default under the contract. 11 U.S.C. § 365(b)(1)(A).

- 16. Further, Section 365(f)(2)(A) provides that the trustee may only assign a contract if "the trustee assumes such contract…in accordance with the provisions of this section." 11 U.S.C. § 365(f)(2)(A).
- 17. The Bankruptcy Code thus unequivocally requires that *before* a contract can be assumed or assigned, any defaults must either be cured or adequate assurance that a prompt cure will be provided must be given. *See, e.g., In re Skylark Travel, Inc.*, 120 B.R. 352, 355 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1990) ("[i]f the debtor wishes to assume the [contract] it must first cure the default as required by 11 U.S.C. § 365(b)").
- 18. The Assumable Executory Contracts should not be assumed and assigned to the Purchaser unless and until the Debtors or the Purchaser cure any defaults thereunder or give adequate assurance that a prompt cure will be provided.

## **RELIEF REQUESTED**

WHEREFORE, Supplier requests that the Court enter an order denying the Debtor's request to assume and assign the Assumable Executory Contracts, and grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

# 09-50026-mg Doc 1106 Filed 06/15/09 Entered 06/15/09 14:52:26 Main Document Pg 6 of 8

Dated: June 15, 2009 FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

/s/ Salvatore A. Barbatano
Steven H. Hilfinger
Salvatore A. Barbatano
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
One Detroit Center
500 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2700
Detroit, MI 48226-3489
Telephone: (313) 234-7100

Facsimile: (313) 234-7100

Attorneys for Peterson American Corporation

UNITED STATES	BANKRUP	TCY COU	JRT
THE SOUTHERN	<b>DISTRICT</b>	OF NEW	<b>YORK</b>

-X	
:	Chapter 11
:	
:	Case No. 09-50026 (REG)
:	
:	Jointly Administered
:	•
-X	
	: : :

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on June 15, 2009, I caused the Objection Of Peterson American Corporation To Assumption And Assignment Of Certain Executory Contracts And Cure Amounts Related Thereto to be served via U.S. Mail on the following at the addresses set forth below:

General Motors Corporation Attn: Warren Command Center Mail Code 480-206-114 30009 Van Dyke Avenue Warren, Michigan 48090-9025

U.S. Treasury Attn: Matthew Feldman, Esq. 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Room 2312 Washington, D.C. 20220

Vedder Price, P.C. Michael J. Edelman, Esq. Michael L. Schein, Esq. Attorneys for Export Development Canada 1633 Broadway, 47th Floor, New York, New York 10019 Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP Attorneys for the Debtors Attn: Harvey R. Miller, Esq. Stephen Karotkin, Esq. Joseph H. Smolinsky, Esq 767 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10153

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP Attn: John J. Rapisardi, Esq. Attorneys for the Purchaser One World Financial Center New York, New York 10281

Office of the United States Trustee Southern District of New York Attn: Diana G. Adams, Esq. 33 Whitehall Street, 21st Floor New York, New York 10004 09-50026-mg Doc 1106 Filed 06/15/09 Entered 06/15/09 14:52:26 Main Document Pg 8 of 8

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP Attorneys for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors Attn: Gordon Z. Novod, Esq. 1177 Avenue Of The Americas New York, NY 10036

Dated: June 15, 2009 FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

/s/ Salvatore A. Barbatano
Steven H. Hilfinger
Salvatore A. Barbatano
500 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2700
Detroit, MI 48226-3489

Telephone: (313) 234-7100 Facsimile: (313) 234-2800